

Observations on House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service
Hearing, 27 April 1960, in re Pay Legislation.

(Present: Messrs. Murray, Lesinski, Porter, Dulski, Prokop, Foley,
Harmon, Alford, Oliver, Rees, Gross, Broyhill, Johansen, Cunningham,
Mrs. St. George)

Essentially both witnesses before the Committee today reiterated the Administration opposition to the bill under consideration. Their respective responses to questions by Committee members did not differ from that of previous Administration witnesses except in emphasis upon those factors of direct concern to their functions.

Under Secretary Scribner stressed the unfavorable impact on the Federal fiscal situation by granting the proposed increases at this time. Characterizing the predictable result as inflationary, he denied the implication by Committee questioners that Federal employees are being penalized or singled out for demands over and above those being made on all citizens. When the questioning led to the general area of national prosperity, he re-directed the discussion to broad fiscal disciplines, which he regards as the proper perspective for pay raise discussions.

To further questioning, both Mr. Scribner and Secretary Mueller predicted improvement in the national economy and concurrent improved tax income through expanded world commerce. It was implied that this would enhance the chances for more favorable consideration of Federal employee pay increases at some future time. The discussion then ran so far afield that it was necessary for the Chairman to call for orderly discussion of the matter before the Committee.

Mr. Porter inquired whether Commerce experiences unusual turnover or other difficulties because of unfavorable salary comparison with private enterprise. Mr. Mueller replied in the negative except for some slight difficulty in the Bureau of Public Roads. He voiced the opinion that Federal workers as a whole are dedicated and willing to await a reasoned solution of problems of inequity which may exist. He identified his philosophy as recognition of salary increase justification when it can be equated with productive improvement.

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WITNESSES FOR HEARINGS ON PAY INCREASE LEGISLATION - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27.

HONORABLE FRED C. SCRIBNER, Jr., Under Secretary of the Treasury

HONORABLE FREDERICK H. MUELLER, Secretary of Commerce